

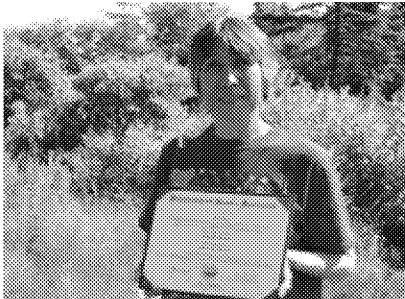
BBNA Environmental Program Earth Friendly News

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Environmental Classes at the Bristol Bay Campus—*What's in it for YOU*

Tina Tinker's emphatic response is "PLENTY"! The first graduate of the **Environmental Studies Certificate Program**, Tina has embraced learning



Tina Tinker proudly displays her Environmental Studies Certificate

about environmental topics that have a practical application to her work as Aleknagik's Tribal Environmental Program Assistant. The classes she has taken have improved her job performance, especially when it comes to "understanding technical studies and interpreting data." As part of the program, Tina's internship to assess the potential for using tidal energy in Nushagak Bay for ice production for the fishing fleet gave her on-the-ground research skills. From a personal standpoint, Tina "feels that she's made great strides" noting her motivation was "to show others, especially her children, what can be accomplished through determination and persistence." Professional-

ly, Tina says the certificate has "opened the doors for becoming involved in various projects and partnerships", and that she also plans to complete her Associates Degree in Environmental Studies through the Bristol Bay Campus.



Tina Tinker collecting data as a Tidal Energy intern

Proposed Environmental Studies Occupational Endorsement

A healthy environment is vital to Bristol Bay's way of life. Many in the region have voiced the need for a local environmental technician workforce to help man-

age both renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Accredited professional development opportunities for environmental technician positions are currently limited, and why BBNA's Environmental Program and UAF Bristol Bay Campus are developing an **Environmental Studies Occupational Endorsement (ENVI OE)**. The proposed 12-16 credits program will provide a foundation for entry level environmental careers in rural communities. It will also provide those already employed as tribal environmental staff a practical avenue to improve their job skills and community-based programs. Learning Excel to develop and track program or project budgets, set up databases and produce graphs to show project data is an example of the

type of class that can be offered. The ENVI Occupational Endorsement was introduced at the November 2012 Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management and received positive feedback from Bristol Bay participants and other regions.



Todd Radenbaugh, discusses the proposed Environmental Studies OE at the November 2012, environmental conference in Anchorage

GOALS FOR DEVELOPING AN OE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT BBC



- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- FOCUS ON RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKERS
- RECOGNIZE TRAINING EFFORTS OF RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKERS
- DESIGN AN OE THAT IS USEFUL TO ENVIRONMENTAL WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

The Nushagak River receives International Recognition!

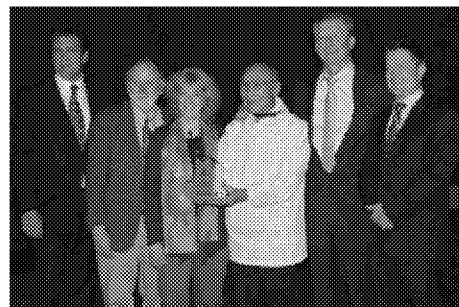
The Nushagak River was one of four finalists for the Thiess International River Prize – the world's most prestigious environmental award – based on collaborative efforts by the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust and the Nushagak Mulchatna Watershed Council with substantial support from partner organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Fund, to keep the watershed ecosystem intact. The voting by a panel of international judges was so close the International River Foundation, for the first time in the 14-year history of the competition, created a special award that was presented to the Land Trust with the statement: *The Nushagak River is a unique example of the need to engage in protection activities for rivers of ecological significance.* Some of the accomplishments of the watershed council, land trust and project partners to implement the Nushagak River Watershed Traditional Use Area Conservation Plan

adopted by the watershed council include:

- adding over 100 stream miles to Alaska's Anadromous Waters Catalog
- securing conservation protections for more than 21,000 acres of private lands, most of it within the Wood-Tikchik State Park
- initiating in-stream flow reservations on the Koktuli, Stuyahok and Mulchatna Rivers
- starting a river academy to teach local youth about fish habitat and river systems and provide them with basic instruction in fly fishing and the skills needed for employment as guides;
- undertaking with The Nature Conservancy an assessment of the risks of large scale mining in the water-

shed

- developing a set of recommended standards and practices for responsible mining within the watershed



International River Foundation Chairman Gary Jones (far left) and CEO Matthew Ruddy (far right) present award to Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust Executive Director Tim Troll and board members Sue Flensburg, Bobby Andrew and Bud Hodson



Finalists for the 2012 Thiess International River Prize, watch the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yW3UlpVumew>

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BBNA Staff Receives Conservation Award

Sue Flensburg, BBNA Environmental Program Manager, was also recognized by The Nature Conservancy as the 2012 recipient of the **Susan Rudy Communi-**

ty Conservation Award, given annually in honor of the first director of the Conservancy's Alaska Chapter. The award was presented at the TNC Board of Trustees meeting in October 2012 to acknowledge Sue's extraordinary commitment to building diverse conservation partnerships within Bristol Bay communities.